

**Graphical Marine Hazards
Produce Description Document
06/05/03**

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Graphical Local Marine Hazards provides a graphical representation of potential hazards to boaters for the next 6-12 hours. It highlights areas where winds are expected to exceed 20 kts and seas are expected to exceed 5' in the open waters.

b. Purpose - The Graphical Marine Hazards is derived from the headlines issued in the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF). The CWF is primarily intended for use by boaters operating in the local waters. The Graphical Marine Hazards is intended to give the boaters a quick look at the possible hazards in the area.

c. Audience - The target audience for this experimental graphical product is the marine community. The product is available to anyone who has an Internet connection. Since this product is in the public domain, it can be acquired by intermediaries, repackaged, and re-transmitted in accord with standard NWS product use policies.

d. Presentation Format - The Graphical Marine Hazards is a web based graphical product that displays a map of the local coastal area and adjacent waters. Those areas that are headlined in the CWF are color coded according to the color bar also on the graphic.

e. Feedback Method - We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. An OMB approved form may be used to submit comments about this new product. It is available on or within the web site containing the experimental product.

Technical comments for the Graphical Marine Hazards product may be addressed to:
National Weather Service
Attn: Thomas Kriehn
533 Roberts Rd.
Newport, NC 28570
or e-mail comments to: thomas.kriehn@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis - The Graphical Marine Hazards is composed of information about the expected wind and sea condition for the next 6 to 12 hours. Within the product are links to the worded forecast for each marine section and to a description of each hazard.

b. Product availability - The CWF is issued routinely four times a day around 4:00 and 10:00 am/pm local time. Updates are issued any time conditions warrant. When the CWF is issued, a local application program runs automatically reads any headlines and formats these into hypertext markup language (HTML). The product is then transmitted automatically to the Internet server hosting the local NWS home page. This product is compliant with the 1998 Amendment to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

c. Additional Information - The Graphical Marine Hazards was created by Carin Goodall-Gosnell, WFO Newport/Morehead City NC. Refer to NWSI 10-302, Marine and Coastal Services Areas of Responsibility for a technical description of the Coastal Waters Forecast product.